

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00  
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02  
OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-01  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 147879

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, CG

SUBJECT: BISINGEMANA TALKS WITH U.S. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OF IMF

1. SUMMARY: AT THE REQUEST OF GOZ ENVOY BISINGEMANA A  
MEETING WAS SET UP JUNE 8 TO ALLOW HIM TO BRIEF THE U.S.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO IMF. TREASURY AND STATE REPRESENTA-  
TIVES ALSO ATTENDED BRIEFING. BISINGEMANA'S PRIMARY OB-  
JECTIVE WAS, TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE THE GOZ NOW ATTACHES  
TO RESTORING ITS INTERNATIONAL CREDIBILITY, AND TO ASK U.S.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO USE HIS INFLUENCE IN IMF TO CONVINCE  
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OTHERS THAT A REAL CHANGE IN GOZ POLICY AND PRIORITIES IS  
UNDERWAY. HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF ALL INTERNATION-  
AL ASSISTANCE FOR ZAIRE -- EVEN THAT DESIGNED FOR TEMPORARY  
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE -- BEING IN THE CONTEXT OF AN IMF  
STABILIZATION PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. BISINGEMANA REVIEWED THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS APPOINT-

MENT BY PRESIDENT MOBUTU, NOTING THAT BEFORE HE ACCEPTED THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION TO RESTORE THE GOZ'S ECONOMIC CREDIBILITY HE HAD SET FOUR PRIOR CONDITIONS WHICH WERE ACCEPTED BY MOBUTU. THESE WERE: (A) THAT HE COULD BE CANDID IN DISCUSSING ALL PROBLEMS WITH THE GOZ'S FRIENDS,

(B) THAT A SMALL TECHNICAL TEAM WOULD BE CREATED TO ASSIST HIM, (C) THAT HE WOULD HAVE READY ACCESS TO MOBUTU, AND (D) THAT THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY BISINGEMANA WOULD BE ADOPTED BY THE GOZ EVEN IF THEY WERE UNPOPULAR AND WOULD ENTAIL PUBLIC HARDSHIP.

3. BISINGIMANA THEN DESCRIBED SOME OF THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE GOZ. HE EMPHASIZED THE NEEDED REFORM IN PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS THE "WORST IN AFRICA". IN THIS CONTEXT, HE CITED THE NEED TO CURB FINANCING OF THE BUDGET BY THE CENTRAL BANK. HE STATED THAT WITH MOBUTU'S PERMISSION HE HAD ALREADY TALKED TO KEY MEMBERS OF THE MOBUTU FAMILY CONCERNING THEIR ABUSIVE PRACTICES REGARDING CUSTOM DUTIES AND TAXES, AND THAT IMPROVEMENTS IN THIS AREA WERE EXPECTED. OTHER AREAS REQUIRING HIS ATTENTION WOULD BE CONTROL IN THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, A REDUCTION IN THE MILITARY FORCES ON THE PAYROLL, AND CONTROL OVER THE EXPENDITURES OF THE 50 TO 60 DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS THE GOZ HAS ABROAD. BISINGEMANA STATED THE PRESIDENTIAL BUDGET, WHICH NOW HAD NO LIMITATIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD HAVE TARGETS WHICH COULD BE REVIEWED BY THE PRESIDENT ON A DAILY, WEEKLY AND MONTHLY BASIS.

4. ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, BISINGEMANA REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF AN IMF PROGRAM. HE NOTED FRANKLY THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DID NOT TRUST GOZ MANAGEMENT, AND STATED THAT ALL INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE -- EVEN THAT REQUIRED FOR TEMPORARY EMERGENCY NEEDS MUST BE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF AN OVER-ALL IMF ECONOMIC PROGRAM TO AVOID CONFUSION AND TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF THE GOZ'S SERIOUS INTENTIONS TO CHANGE ITS POLICIES AND PRIORITIES. REGARDING DEBT RESCHEDULING, BISINGEMANA STATED THAT THE GOZ WISHED A CONSOLIDATION PERIOD OF MORE THAN ONE YEAR BUT WAS WILLING TO HINGE ANY RESCHEDULING ON AN IMF PROGRAM.

5. BISINGEMANA REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT A REAL CHANGE WAS UNDERWAY WITHIN THE GOZ, AND STATED HIS HOPE THAT THE USG WOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE IN THE IMF TO CONVINCE OTHERS THAT SUCH CHANGES AS DESCRIBED ABOVE WERE IMMINENT. THE U.S. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THANKED BISINGEMANA FOR HIS CANDID APPRAISAL OF THE PROBLEMS FACED BY ZAIRE, AND PROMISED TO

CONTINUE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS VERY CLOSELY. VANCE

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